

in a program that literally explodes in the second 10 years, it will make it fiscally impossible to meet the social security needs. It is one of the most irresponsible fiscal actions.

In fact, I have termed this. I have been here now 20 years, going on 21. This bill is the most fiscally irresponsible bill to come before the Congress in the 20½ years that I have been here, and I hope we will be able to turn that around, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. TANNER. I called it a generational mugging in the committee the other day, and I believe that is what it is. I believe it is a generational mugging that we are taking money now and, as I said earlier, taking the money and running instead of paying what we owe on behalf of our kids and grandkids.

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, if my colleague will yield for another moment, finally I have a graph over here, a graphic display of what the Blue Dog budget is like, if you just think about the bones and the rewards that all of our dogs at home, they always like to have, and just take that bone. That is not a phony bone. We are talking about using half of a surplus that we hope will accrue to reduce the debt. That has its rewards throughout the economy, as we have said. We are talking about 25 percent for tax reductions.

All of us would like to have tax reductions. It goes without saying. It is a bipartisan goal. But the question is: How do we do it responsibly? And let us allocate a responsible amount to tax reduction and not have, let us say, the White House and the congressional leadership get in some sort of bidding war over spending and tax cuts. That is terribly destructive. That eats into the debt reduction.

And finally, we have all acknowledged that we have program priorities, and I agree with you. I have heard from the hospitals in rural Minnesota and in the metropolitan areas in Minnesota of the dramatic effect that the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 on health care and what this is doing to our institutions; and probably what is most dramatic and what is the saddest is what I see is happening with home health care and with nursing homes.

As my colleagues know, we have loyal, dedicated, hard-working nursing home employees in our country that could earn more by going to fast-food restaurants. But they are committed to working with seniors who are in nursing homes, and I think that it is just we ought to be ashamed at what is happening in nursing homes in our country and the wages that people that work there, and if we say that we can-

not do anything to make sure that we can keep the doors open in those facilities and continue to provide home health care so that seniors can live at home as long as possible; and, instead, we are going to, whether it is launching into a new program or initiating tax cuts that we cannot afford. I think that is irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) for contacting us and urging that we get together this evening to discuss this very important issue.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, most of us who are members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog coalition support tax cuts, but I was just discussing with my friend from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) the tax cut bill that was on the floor of the House just a year ago, a tax cut that I voted for. In fact, I have voted for each of the two tax cut measures that have been before this Congress since I have been a Member.

Last year's tax cut bill was in the neighborhood of \$150 billion over 10 years. It was an \$80 billion over 5-year tax cut. That bill passed the House by a small margin, died in the Senate, never became law.

Here we are a year later, almost less than a year later, voting on a tax cut 5½ times as large as the one this House voted on less than a year ago.

Now you cannot tell me that the budget forecasts and the surplus estimates have changed that much in 1 year. Common sense would tell us that what we are talking about in this tax cut is fiscally irresponsible, and I want to thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) for bringing this issue before the floor tonight and for his leadership as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues very much, and I want to thank you all for coming, and I want to thank the folks here for staying around and listening to us, and I think maybe we might ought to do this again sometime with some more charts, not to glaze people's eyes over, but just to tell them we believe that we ought to pay our debts first and then have a responsible tax cut as well as bolster our military, our health care system, our education system through what we said we would do for our veterans and for our agricultural sector that is in real trouble.

Mr. Speaker, with that I want to thank my colleagues.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. THURMAN of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of family illness.

Mr. TOOMEY of Pennsylvania (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of family illness.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mrs. FOWLER of Florida (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mr. TAUZIN of Louisiana (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LAMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CALVERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, July 20.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2035. An act to correct errors in the authorizations of certain programs administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to. Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, July 20, 1999, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

#### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports and amended reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for official foreign travel during the first quarter of 1999 by Committees of the House of Representatives, as well as a consolidated report of foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the second quarter of 1999, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, and for miscellaneous groups in connection with official foreign travel during the calendar year 1999 are as follows: